

Camden County Board of Commissioners

Special Meeting

May 16, 2007

7:00 P.M.

Historic Courtroom

Camden, North Carolina

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Wednesday, May 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Historic Courthouse, Courthouse Complex, Camden, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Chairman Jeffrey B. Jennings

Commissioners Melvin J. Jeralds and Carolyn O. Riggs

Courthouse Fire Department Fire Commissioners

George Tarkington

Dewey Berry

William R. Forehand

South Mills Fire Department Fire Commissioner

Ray Albertson

South Mills Volunteer Fire Department

Chief Kenny Swinson

Assistant Fire Chief Tommy Banks

Commissioners Philip Faison and Mike Andrews were absent. Also attending was County Manager Randell Woodruff and Finance Officer Clarann Mansfield.

The purpose of the special meeting was to meet jointly with the South Mills and South Camden Fire Departments to explain the distribution of the fire tax for FY2007-2008.

Chairman Jeffrey Jennings stated *“it has been brought to the Board’s attention that low wealth school funding is based on the county’s ad valorem tax rate compared to the State average. As long as the tax rate is above the State average, Camden schools will receive the low wealth school funding. If the tax rate is set at \$.55, the \$.05 fire tax does not count as the County’s ad valorem tax rate. If the tax rate is set at \$.55 the county is going to be \$.02 under the State average. The County will loose over \$600,000.00 in low wealth school funding. The Institute of Government has been consulted and what is proposed is to lower the fire tax to \$.01 in both Fire Districts and dedicate \$.04 back to the Fire Departments so the Fire Departments will receive a total of \$.05. Legal papers will be drawn up so everyone knows what funds are dedicated to whom and that the \$.04 will return to the ad valorem tax and then go back to the Fire Department, which is basically for the Fire Departments protection in the future. Instead of \$.55 plus \$.05, it will be \$.59 plus \$.01 but the Fire Departments are still going to receive the same amount. The Institute of Government advised the Board that the \$.04 would count for the State average and put the County above that average to qualify for the low wealth school funding. The \$.04 will be legally dedicated to the Fire Departments just like the money was for the schools. This has to be done because the tax rate will not have to be raised any higher than necessary. Everything stays the same, and that \$.04 will be dedicated back to the Fire Departments and at the same time the \$.04 will count toward the County’s ad valorem state average.”*

The special meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Jeffrey B. Jennings, Chairman
Camden County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Ava J. Gurganus, Clerk to the Board